

How does the process work?

In early December, applicants submit their applications for the Idaho Schools of Character awards program. Applications are reviewed and ISOC selections are made using the *Character Education Quality Standards* scoring criteria as well as *Guidelines for School Districts in Fostering Character Education*. ISOC finalists will be recognized for their achievements and sent on to the national competition in February. CEP notifies applicants of their status in March. In March and April, a two person evaluation team visits the Finalists. In May, a Blue-Ribbon Panel of professionals in the character education field convenes to select the National Schools of Character. The application, the *Quality Standards*, the *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education*, and the *Guidelines for School Districts* can be downloaded from www.character.org.

What do National Schools of Character receive?

NSOC receive recognition at the CEP Annual Forum in October and through national press coverage. CEP also features the National Schools of Character in its annual NSOC book/CD and on the CEP Web site. Award recipients receive a National Schools of Character flag for display and a **\$20,000 award**. NSOC use half the monetary award to enhance their program and the other half to present at conferences, mentor other schools and districts, or hold open houses or workshops for other educators interested in implementing character education.

Idaho Schools of Character Timeline

- **December 2006:**
State deadline for applications.
- **February 2007:**
SSOC selections made and finalists sent to the national competition.
- **March/April 2007:**
NSOC site visits take place.
- **May 2007:**
State hosts awards celebration and begins 2008 ISOC Award announcement/advertisement.
- **May 2007:**
Blue-ribbon panel makes NSOC selections.
- **October 2007:**
National Awards at 2007 CEP Forum.



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Idaho Schools of Character Award

Awarding schools and districts that demonstrate outstanding character education initiatives that yield positive results in student behavior, school climate and academic performance.

National Schools of Character Awards Program

Sponsored by the Character Education Partnership

What is the purpose of the National Schools of Character Awards Program?

The National Schools of Character (NSOC) Awards program has a twofold purpose:

- 1) To identify exemplary schools and districts to serve as models for others;
- 2) To help schools and districts improve their efforts in effective character education.

What is a National School of Character?

Every year, the Character Education Partnership (CEP) recognizes approximately 10 public and private schools and districts (K-12) in the United States as National Schools of Character. Schools and districts are selected because they exemplify CEP's *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education* and because their work is replicable and applicable to a wide range of educational settings.

The schools or districts that are recognized as the Idaho Schools of Character Award recipients will automatically be submitted to the National Schools of Character Awards Program.

Idaho Schools of Character Awards Program

What is the Idaho Schools of Character Program?

Idaho Schools of Character (ISOC) program is an annual awards program recognizing K-12 schools and districts demonstrating outstanding character education initiatives that yield positive results in student behavior, school climate and academic performance.

Although winners may differ in method, content, and scope, all emphasize core ethical values such as honesty, respect, responsibility and caring. The State Department of Education's, Office of Civics, Service, Character and International Education encourages schools and districts involved in character education to look at the criteria *Character Education Quality Standards* located on the Character Education Partnership website www.character.org to determine whether they might qualify.

Selected schools and districts will receive state recognition and will be submitted for the National Schools of Character program award in which the winning school will receive a **cash award of \$20,000**, national recognition, and will be featured in CEP's annual NSOC book/CD and on CEP's Website.

What should the application include?

- The Idaho Schools of Character application follows the National Schools of Character application process and should include:
 - completed cover page
 - demographics page
 - 7-page narrative
 - portfolio table of contents
 - 25-page portfolio
 - *Quality Standards* score sheet
- Application packets can be accessed online at www.character.org.

Send to:

Idaho State Department of Education
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Applications must be postmarked by **Monday, December 4, 2006.**
You will receive notification of receipt of your application.

